

COLORADO WINE INDUSTRY KICKS OFF 2022 CRUSH SEASON; SOME WINEMAKERS SEE MOST ROBUST HARVEST TO DATE

Colorado's Winemakers to Host Harvest Events Across the State

(Broomfield, Colo.) – September 13, 2022 - The <u>Colorado Wine Board</u> along with more than 170 wineries across Colorado are gearing up for the busiest time of year – crush season. After a challenging couple of years with early frosts and lower yields, our state's winemakers are celebrating a bountiful harvest. A myriad of events will accompany this year's harvest, and the Colorado Wine Board is encouraging Coloradans to make a pilgrimage to the Western Slope this fall to support Colorado farmers and grapegrowers.

"Each vintage brings new and exciting challenges for Colorado grape-growers and winemakers," said Doug Caskey, executive director of the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board. "This year looks to offer a welcome reprieve from the recent cold events that hampered harvest, offering abundance and quality that we haven't seen for a couple of years."

Several winemakers are reporting this year's harvest as one of the best they've ever seen. Kevin Webber of Carboy Winery stated that its Grand Valley vineyard, <u>Kay Vineyard</u>, is the "best it has ever looked."

"There appears to be a much higher crop this year compared to last year, especially for the *vinifera* vines that were hit the previous couple of years," said Dr Horst Caspari, Professor & State Viticulturist at Colorado State University. "We are finding that many different varieties look particularly good."

With changing leaves, crisp air, and production going on in the vineyards, late summer is one of the best times to visit Colorado's wineries. Take part in Colorado's harvest by participating in these top celebrations across the state:

- Colorado Wine Week events happening around the state, September 11-18
- Annual Harvest Festival at Winery at Holy Cross Abbey, Cañon City, September 24-25
- Harvest Festival at Carboy Winery, Littleton, September 20 from 2:00-5:00 pm
- <u>Tour de Vineyards</u> (Road bike race) Palisade, September 17
 - Take the leisurely 23-mile route along the Palisade Fruit & Wine Byway, or opt for the 58-mile loop up and over Reeder Mesa.

<u>Balistreri Harvest Party</u>, Denver, October 2 from 12:00-5:00 pm

Colorado wines are a reflection of the state's unique growing climate, producing some of the best grapes in the country grown on nearly 1,000 high-altitude acres of vineyards. Harvest is a time of celebrating Colorado's bounty and another successful growing season.

For a complete list of wineries and detailed maps of Colorado's wine regions for self-guided wine tours, visit www.coloradowine.com

About the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB) is part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture dedicated to promoting and furthering the development of Colorado's grape growers and vintners. The CWIDB supports the efforts of more than 160 wineries throughout the state, producing an increasing array of premium-quality wines. For additional information, visit www.coloradowine.com.